

PROUTY TAXATION FIGURES UNSOUND

(Continued from First Page.)

taxation, and then to evict the people of the city in order that they may find elsewhere some means of self-support?

Washington and New Orleans.

The cities nearest to Washington in population are New Orleans and Minneapolis, the former a little larger, the latter a little smaller; both richer in taxable resources and means of local self-support than Washington, both suffering less than Washington from transient non-paying percentage of population. The tax levies and per capita tax levies of the three cities are close together, indicating that Washington is taxed today substantially as the taxpayers of those American cities most closely approximating it in size and resources; and the moral is that Washington is already bearing with less resources and greater drawbacks and disabilities the same tax burdens that are endured by these typical American cities, and as a consequence that in fairness its tax burden should not be increased artificially a single dollar, in addition to the natural increase from its steady growth.

City	Population	Per Cap. Tax	Total Tax Levy
New Orleans	260,000	\$1.28	\$332,800
Washington	312,736	\$1.25	\$390,920
Minneapolis	323,477	\$1.25	\$404,346

All three cities are over 300,000 in population and consequently the country tax is figured by the census in the tax levies. Minneapolis thus gets the benefit of this special addition to her tax levy, while Washington suffers from the non-inclusion in the census calculation of the tax on the gross incomes of public service corporations in lieu of personal taxes. This revenue in Washington's case is approximately the tax derived from this source being greater than that derived from the personal tax on individuals. The total figure at all in the total and per capita tax levy.

The revenue from this source is for Washington, \$1,326,296; for Minneapolis, \$1,855,293, and for New Orleans, \$900,482. In neither New Orleans, Minneapolis nor any other American city is so small a fraction of the city's area assessed and taxed; in no other city is so large a percentage of the city's area as that of the city's really operative, great buildings and industrial plants, exempt from taxation.

In view of all the conditions affecting Washington's comparative tax burden (as they have been exhaustively discussed in editorial correspondence of The Star of March 14, 1914), the present per capita and total tax levies of Washington represent the full reasonable tax burden imposed upon themselves by American cities approximating Washington in population and other municipal conditions.

Delusion of Vast Wealth.

Messrs. Prouty, Johnson, Crisp and H. J. Brown affirm that Washington's reasonable tax burden, instead of being five, six or seven millions, like that of Minneapolis, New Orleans, Milwaukee, Newark, etc., is fifteen millions, much greater than St. Louis (\$12,354,918), Cleveland (\$10,619,867), Buffalo (\$9,425,711) or Baltimore (\$8,843,062). The small assessed fraction of Prouty's Washington, fabulously wealthy, though comparatively destitute of visible taxable resources, can, he says, bear a tax burden as great as those of wealthy, rich and populous Baltimore and Minneapolis combined, or Buffalo and New Orleans combined, or St. Louis and St. Paul combined.

Mr. Prouty's speech of last session contains a table which gives the figures of expenditure of the states of the Union, the entire expenses of the state, including the pay of all state officers, its legislature and the maintenance of its universities, eleemosynary institutions, penitentiaries and state departments. These figures may be combined with the census figures concerning city's tax burdens to put in an even more striking light the excessive and bankrupting tax burden proposed by Mr. Prouty for Washington.

Washington's tax burden at \$15,000,000 would be only a little less than that of St. Louis (\$12,354,918) and of Missouri (\$12,881,948) combined; about the same as Baltimore (\$8,843,062), Maryland (\$2,757,290) and Georgia (\$3,798,622) combined, or Baltimore, Maryland and Louisiana (\$3,442,226) combined, or Baltimore, Maryland and two cities of Des Moines (\$3,974,748) combined. Washington's tax burden would be equal to that of Louisville (\$2,444,269) and all Kentucky (\$4,196,579), Des Moines (\$1,255,739) and all Iowa (\$2,127,595), and Atlanta, Ga. (\$1,255,344) combined. Is it reasonable for Johnson, Prouty and Crisp to impose upon the resourceless and owners of the tiny taxed fraction of Washington a burden as great in dollars as the combined burdens of Louisville and of Kentucky and e. Des Moines and of Iowa and of Atlanta?

Mr. Prouty proposes to crush the 50,000 taxpayers of Washington, only about 800 of whom, including corporations, pay over \$1,000 in annual taxes, and 10,000 of whom are small home owners, with a tax burden only a little less than those of Detroit (\$9,527,577) and all Michigan (\$5,969,824) combined, about the same as those of Cincinnati (\$7,583,315) and all Ohio (\$7,195,299) combined; considerably more than Minneapolis (\$2,622,241), St. Paul (\$2,754,127) and all Minnesota (\$5,629,634) combined; considerably more than Milwaukee (\$3,891,112), Wisconsin (\$2,208,432), Charleston, S. C. (\$2,473,822), and South Carolina (\$1,481,787) combined; more than New Orleans (\$1,255,739), all Louisiana (\$4,112,242) and all Indiana (\$3,471,819) combined; and more than all New Jersey (\$2,528,218), Jersey City (\$2,528,218) and Indianapolis (\$2,169,963).

Imaginary Bankrupting Riches.

Is not the proposition reduced to an absurdity? Prouty, Johnson and Crisp for taxation and confiscation purposes impute such vast imaginary values to Washington reality and personality as to threaten to deprive this property of all real value and to bankrupt these unhappy Croesuses, destroying them with the weapon of their own alleged but non-existent wealth. The imputation of riches which they have not is used to rob them in excessive taxes of the little which they really have.

Does any one suppose that Washington, if it could by any possibility bear the tax burden of Baltimore and Minneapolis combined, and could meet from its own resources the full expenses of capital maintenance and rebuilding, would endure for a moment the government of an anti-District House District committee exercising unimpeded, but fairly and despotically and even cruelly the power of exclusive legislation over it entrusted to Congress by the Constitution?

If these imaginary taxable resources really existed Washington would demand and secure the American privilege of taxing itself for municipal purposes, and the American right of representation on the same basis as other Americans in the Congress and the electoral college.

The imaginary wealth of Washington consists of: First, reality assessed on the single-tax basis up to a point where through excessive and unendurable taxation private ownership may be destroyed, and by virtuous robbery of the individual on the single-tax principle the state may come into possession of its own. The imputation of vast wealth is not designed to enrich, in fact, the Washingtonian, but to destroy him as a property owner, and to deprive his land of all value and to take it away from him. Being in fact a means supporting the individual of small means, he is called so far as private land ownership is concerned, a Divis in order to transform him into a Lazarus. The second item of Washington's imaginary wealth is one or two or three hundred millions of intangible personality which multi-millionaire tax dodgers are alleged to have brought here from various states of the Union. Assuming that such money has been brought here, it is not an available tax resource of the capital. Washington is to be from being the only jurisdiction where the taxable resources are not assessed for taxation, and whatever millions, if any, have been brought here to escape taxation would promptly go elsewhere if taxed.

The exaggeration of riches in both aspects tends to bankrupt and pauperize. It imputes too great riches in order to destroy the small resources actually enjoyed. The Washingtonian is bloated verbally into the subject of vast wealth in order that he may be financially destroyed. He is like the Pasha in Marry's novel who is described as a man whose head is elevated somewhat above those of his fellows in order that he may be the more conveniently decapitated.

If Congress were convinced of the accuracy of Mr. Prouty's figures and believed Washington to possess the alleged enormous taxable resources it ought not to impose the taxation proposed. It should withdraw the nation from financial participation in capital spending and leave this community, blessed with such taxable resources to tax itself. If Washington can raise easily an annual tax levy of \$15,000,000 the nation should take no part in financing the municipality; and as a logical and necessary sequence it should take no part in determining what amount and by what methods and for what purposes the community shall be taxed.

RAIL STRIKES AVERTED BY BOARD OF MEDIATION

Submits Report of Work Accomplished During First Year of Its Existence.

That there have been twenty-eight cases of differences between railroad employers and their employees, involving 124,503 of the latter, brought to the attention of the United States board of mediation and conciliation during the first year of its existence is information contained in the first annual report of that body, submitted to President Wilson yesterday by William L. Chambers, the commissioner. The board was established by act of Congress, approved July 12, 1913.

Some of these cases were submitted by one side; some by the other, and some jointly, and in all except two strike votes had actually been taken before the services of the board were requested. There have been, however, but two instances where this vote became effective, and this for a short time only. In other words, no railroad strike of any serious consequence has occurred in this country during the first year of the operation of the board.

In one of the cases where the strike vote did become effective the request for mediation services was not received until late in the evening, and the strike was set for 6 o'clock next morning. It lasted, however, but twelve hours. In the other case the application for mediation was received from one of the parties, but it was declined by the other. An amicable adjustment was reached, nevertheless, with no destruction to property and with but slight detriment to public interest.

Of the twenty-eight cases, twenty-one were adjusted wisely through mediation and arbitration, and two by arbitration combined. In but five cases was it necessary to submit all matters in controversy to boards of arbitration.

The Society Clothes Shop
Announces Its First
Annual Mid-Winter Clearance Sale
of **Society Brand Clothes**
AND OTHER GOOD CLOTHES
An Absolute and Complete Clearance of
All Winter Suits and Overcoats
at **Substantial Price Reductions**

This most important of sales embraces positively every garment in the Society Clothes Shop—the complete unbroken lines of Society Brand—Aristocrat-ic and other well known brands of Suits and Overcoats and the celebrated Aquascutum London Overcoats—the finest ready-for-service clothes in the world—at the lowest prices at which these clothes have ever been sold in Washington.

The selection of styles and materials is unquestionably the largest in this city—nowhere else will you find half the variety or volume of clothing displayed as at the Society Clothes Shop. This sale, therefore, assumes the proportions of a veritable event—in fact, the greatest clothing sale of the National Capital.



We want to emphasize this point—this annual Midwinter Clearance Sale and the annual Summer Clearance Sale are the only two sales of the whole year in Society Brand Clothes—the only two opportunities to buy these world-renowned clothes at less than regular price.

Society Brand Clothes have been made famous throughout the world through leading periodicals and national press as the foremost clothes for young men and men who stay young. Hence the Society Clothes Shop feels a particular thrill of satisfaction in being able to give its patrons such clothes at prices so far below the regular scale.

No Charge for Alterations

Sale Starts Friday Morning

\$15.00 Suits and Overcoats	\$10.50	\$27.50 Society Brand Suits and Overcoats	\$20.50
\$17.50 Aristocrat-ic Suits and Overcoats	\$12.50	\$30.00 Society Brand Suits and Overcoats	\$22.50
\$20.00 Aristocrat-ic Suits and Overcoats	\$14.50	\$32.50 Society Brand Suits and Overcoats	\$24.50
\$22.50 Aristocrat-ic Suits and Overcoats	\$16.50	\$35.00 Society Brand Suits and Overcoats	\$26.50
\$25.00 Society Brand Suits and Overcoats	\$18.50	\$40.00 Society Brand Suits and Overcoats	\$29.50

All \$25 Silk Lined Tuxedo Suits \$14.75

A Lot of 200 Overcoats Convertible and shawl collar styles—plain cloths and fancy mixtures; sizes 32 to 38 only; broken lots; not all sizes of every kind. Were \$12.50 to \$17.50, at \$9.50

Young Men's English Cut \$40 Silk Lined Full-Dress Coats & Trousers, \$29.50

Think of the Wearing Time Ahead of You

It's not January yet—and there are still three and a half months of winter in which to have the good of these superb clothes. It's only December—the heart of the clothing season, and you get the price savings that usually come only at the end of the season.

Plenty of extra salesmen—you'll find the service excellent.

Every Society Brand O'Coat Model in the Sale

Tokio	Monico	Newport
Bradbury	Putney	Broadway
Seville	Balmoral	King George
Belmont	Standard	Kings
Blenheim	Balkaid	Peer
Balverto	Don	Bal

Every Society Brand Suit Model Is in the Sale

Budd	Rupert	Milbank
Abbey	Budhurst	Town
Yorkshire	Chicago	Sir Henry
Tango	Gabby	York
Row	Gabby, Jr.	York, Jr.
Poole	Dragoon	Aquitania



Society Brand Clothes

In the Third Floor Shoe Store
We are showing a number of new "spat" top shoes for men and young men, with tops of buckskin. They're mighty distinctive—the kind of footwear that goes well with good clothes. Hand-work where it tells.
Seven Dollars

The Society Clothes Shop at Hechts' Seventh Street

Imported and Domestic Silk Scarfs
...75c and \$1.00 Four-in-hands of rare elegance, in every imaginable design and color combination. Large open-end shapes. At the price we firmly believe the values to be the best of the season. Put a couple down on your Christmas list.
Fifty-five Cents

Adolph Kahn's Big Xmas Sale

We claim and we can prove absolutely that our prices are from 25% to 1/3 lower than you can buy like quality at any store in Washington. Here are a few specials to give an idea of the values.

- LARGEST STOCK OF MESH BAGS IN WASHINGTON.
- \$12 Shaving Stands, plated \$8.00
- \$8 and \$10 Sterling Silver Vanity Cases and Coin Holders; all silver lining \$6.00
- \$4.00 Signet Rings Solid Gold \$2.50
- \$8.00 Signet Rings \$5.00
- \$15.00 Gold Lozenges \$10.00
- \$8 Solid 14-karat Gold Cuff \$5.00
- Buttons \$1.00
- Best Nickel-plated China Dishes and Percolators \$5.00
- \$8.00 Solid Gold Hand-engraved Bracelets \$5.00
- \$5.00 Solid Gold Lavalliers, with real pearls, amethysts and sapphires \$3.50
- \$12 Finest Solid-Set Mesh Bags, of Best Hak mesh \$7.50
- \$7.00 and \$8.00 Finest Goggles \$5.00
- Brush, Comb and Mirror Sets; also a hand engraved \$5.00
- The Mesh Bag illustrated is in German silver; it is something new and superior to anything you have seen of this line elsewhere; the links are soldered and guaranteed to wear like sterling silver; beautiful and durable bag that will give you of service. \$12 Mesh Bags \$7.50

Cuff Buttons and Monogram Fobs

\$15 and \$18 Solid Gold Sawn Out Monogram Cuff Buttons, Special Xmas price, \$10.00

\$15 and \$18 Solid Gold Sawn Out Monogram Fobs, \$10.00

A. Kahn, 935 F Street